



# RIVETS

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Daniel J. McKee **Governor**  
Kasim J. Yarn **Director**

March 11, 2021

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI

Via email: [rep-abney@rilegislature.gov](mailto:rep-abney@rilegislature.gov) and [HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov)

Re: H-5927 An Act Relating to Military Affairs and Defense – Rhode Island Veterans Home

Dear Chairman Abney:

I write today with respect to H-5927, regarding maintenance fees paid by residents of the Rhode Island Veterans Home. At the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services (RIVETS), our number one priority is the health, comfort and safety of the men and women who have chosen to make the Rhode Island Veterans Home their place of residence. We are entrusted not only with their care, but also their trust, and we have worked with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). The CAP outlines reimbursement of fees paid by Veterans with a 70% or greater service-connected disability to current residents and the process to refund fees to next of kin or estates for Veterans who have since passed away based upon publication by the VA of an interim final rule, 38 CFR 51.41 (C)(2), which became effective February 2, 2013.

On a monthly basis, we report to the Veterans Health Administration at the VA the status of the CAP, with the most recent report from February 15, 2021, showing a total of \$2,537,187.95 refunded. All 17 refunds for resident Veterans have been hand-delivered to the appropriate Veteran, guardian and/or durable power of attorneys. There are 36 remaining refunds pending for deceased and discharged Veterans. We are communicating with those families, executors, power of attorneys, and next of kin and have notified them of our intent to meet and initiate the refund process.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and for your leadership and advocacy for Rhode Island Veterans and their families.

Regards,

Kasim J. Yarn  
Director

cc: The Honorable Camille F.J. Vella-Wilkinson  
The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House